



## Washington Update

May 20, 2005

Welcome to my Washington Update, an e-mail newsletter for the constituents of California's 29th Congressional District. Through these quick-read updates, I hope to keep you informed of progress being made in Washington, D.C. and at home on public policy issues of interest to our community.

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### **Schiff to Serve on the Democracy Assistance Commission**

House Speaker Dennis Hastert and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi appointed Congressman Adam Schiff to the House Democracy Assistance Commission today. The Commission will work to strengthen democratic institutions abroad by assisting in the development of foreign parliaments. The Commission will offer expertise enhancing accountability, transparency, legislative independence, and government oversight.

"I'm honored to serve on this commission and work with governments around the world to advance the spread of democracy," said Schiff. "Through my work on the International Relations Committee and my recent trip to Ukraine, I have seen first hand the challenges countries face expanding democracy. I hope this commission will provide useful information and tools to those on the front lines of democratization efforts."

H. Res. 135, which passed on March 14, 2005, provided for the establishment of a commission in the House of Representatives to assist parliaments in emerging democracies. Congressman David Dreier will serve as chairman and Congressman David Price as Ranking Member.

### **Five Students Offered Appointments to Service Academies**

Congressman Schiff would like to congratulate five students from the 29<sup>th</sup> Congressional District who have been offered appointments to U.S. Service Academies. Mark Dodge, a Pasadena resident and student at Polytechnic (Pasadena), and Brian Williams, a Pasadena resident and student at Loyola High School, were offered appointments to the Naval Academy. Brandon

Schwartz, a Temple City resident and student at Glendora High School, was offered an appointment to the Air Force Academy, Military Academy (West Point) and the Merchant Marine Academy. Benjamin Soifer, an Altadena resident and student at La Salle High School, was offered an appointment to the Air Force Academy and the Military Academy (West Point). Matthew Tramel, an Altadena resident and student at Blair High School (Pasadena) was offered an appointment to the Military Academy (West Point).

Students interested in applying to a Service Academy in 2006 should call Congressman Schiff's District Office at 626-304-2727 or visit [www.house.gov/schiff](http://www.house.gov/schiff) to obtain an application packet. The application deadline is November 18, 2005.

### **Save the Date for the Annual Federal Fair**

Please join Congressman Schiff for his annual federal fair on Saturday June 11 from 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. at Alhambra High School. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and obtain valuable information on federal programs, benefits and career opportunities available with several federal agencies. Some of the offices represented will include: The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Internal Revenue Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, Peace Corps, Department of State, Small Business Administration, and Social Security Administration. This event is free and open to the public. For more information please call (626) 304-2727.

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